



# Check Point

SANTA MONICA CHAPTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER, 1955



**The final Checkpoint  
on the Viva Mexico Rallye**

**Next Meeting:**

September 28, 8:00 p.m. Joslyn Hall, 7th and Wilshire, Santa Monica. Program: Film on the 2CV Citroen.

**Next Rallye:**

Saturday night, October 1, Drivers meeting 7:00 p.m. Start L.A. City College Parking lot. (1 block west of Vermont on Melrose).

Two-Day Rallye, October 8th and 9th, Drivers meeting 6:30 a.m. Start at Hody's at Ventura and Sepulveda.

## 2-Day Rallye

by DICK COMEN

Time: October 8 and 9th. First car out at 7:01 A.M.  
Start: Hody's, Ventura and Sepulveda.

Cost: \$15.70 includes entry fee, lodging for 2 (4.25 per person) fine hotel with large pool, full course T-bone steak dinner (2.85 per person including tax and tip) Saturday night, approximately 22 hours of relaxing and fun exclusive of actual driving time.

Misc.: You will arrive at your destination between two and three P.M. You will leave about 1 P.M. the next day and arrive in Los Angeles in time for dinner.

Deadline: All applications and money must be in by September 25. *No entries after this date.* So for the greatest time of your life as a member of the FCCA, get signed up NOW. Starting numbers are given as applications and checks are received — another reason to sign up now.

Mail application and check to:

Dr. R. L. Comen  
1238 7th Street  
Santa Monica, California

## News Quips

NOTE THE ANNUAL POINT STANDINGS. There are 13 points between 6th place and 2nd place. The final three rallies should be very interesting.

\* \* \*

*Mel White* expects to be at the September meeting in his Monza wheelchair complete with wire wheels.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to *Buzz DeBardas* on his RallyeD'Oro. This was the largest rallye ever staged in the U.S. There were 232 cars. The rallye was beautifully managed and we are sure that next year there will be even more cars as this becomes an annual event put on by SMFCCA.

\* \* \*

*Tommy and Laura Gibbons* now reside in Honolulu, he being the pride of the Douglas Customer Service Department. They should be back in a year or two.

\* \* \*

*Dr. Gayle Preston* was just released from the U. S. Army and will be at our September meeting.

\* \* \*

Donors of trophy thus far for the two day rallye:

*Fullerton Loadvine Agency*, Santa Monica  
*Brentwood Motors*, Santa Monica  
*Ralph Cutright*, Santa Monica  
*Olympic Auto Hotel*, Santa Monica.

\* \* \*

*Tommy Gibbons* demolished his Porsche and turned around and bought *Von Neuman's* Super 1500 coupe complete with Factory White paint job and black leather interior — which is now in Honolulu.

\* \* \*

Everyone who has turned in their 2-day rallye application and five dollar deposit. The balance of \$10.70 is due September 25th. Please send check to *Dr. Richard Comen*, 1238 7th Street, Santa Monica.

## Check Point

published monthly by the

SANTA MONICA CHAPTER OF  
THE FOUR CYLINDER CLUB OF AMERICA

EDITOR, Dick Comen

Staff - Mel White, Bill Doyle, Prissy Comen

### Officers and Members of the Board

Mel White, NO 1-3965; Dick Worden, EX 8-1752; Marti Whited; FR 5-8183; Dick Comen, EX 4-3412; Burton Harrison, GL 4-3201; Marsh Whited, FR 5-8183; Gene Connell, TH 8-3822; Buzz DeBardas, CR 5-7177.



## THE BIG CHEESE SPEAKS

by DICK WORDEN

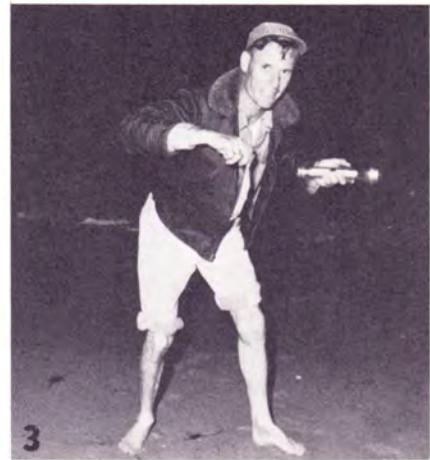
One of the more interesting things that happened at our last meeting was the discovery that the trophies for Rallye "Viva Mexico" were in fact engraved "Rallye S.M." After a discussion with *Bill Wooten* of Giftcraft, it was decided that those of you who received trophies or plaques for that event and who so wish, may have them re-engraved at no charge by Giftcraft.

I hope you will all take care to notice the dates for the Sept. and Oct. events—they are one week apart. Oct 1st, "Summit Ridge Drive Rallye," Oct 8 and 9th, *Dick Comen's* 2-Day Rallye. Both fine events that none of us will want to miss—remember there will be no other club event for seven weeks until the 26th of November for the last event of the year.

How did you all like "Rallye D'Oro"? Though listed as a club event, it was really a one man show—*Buzz DeBardas* did literally all the work with very little help from any of us. That the rallye was a rip-roaring success was due solely to his efforts. Thanks, *Buzz*, on behalf of all the chapter, not only for this event but for all your efforts in the past.

While people are in the spotlight for club efforts and spirit, let it focus on *Bill Doyle*. *Bill* literally puts the entire facilities of *Parker Enterprises* at our club's disposal every month. You all see the results in the form of this beautiful "Checkpoint." Not only was the project his idea, but his untiring efforts, and those of Editor *Dick Comen*, have put it across. *Bill*, take a bow.

Lots of ideas for next year's activities are simmering in the pressure cooker that is our monthly board meeting. Won't you come to one, look, listen and give us your comments? You're welcome, just let us know you're coming — If you think we're in a rut activity-wise and you would like to see us put on a hare and hounds, a poker rallye, gymkhana, or otherwise, let *Marsh Whited* or me know, we'll see what can be done about it. That's about all for now. See you (and *Mel White*, we hope) at the next meeting and those two rallies immediately following.



## BEACH PARTY

The Beach Party at Comen's was a huge success, there were more than 50 people who came and had the time of their life. The food, drinks and weather were perfect.



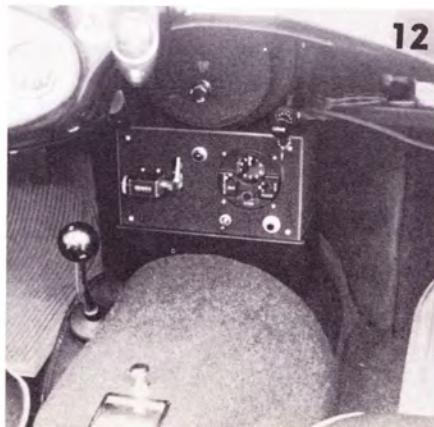
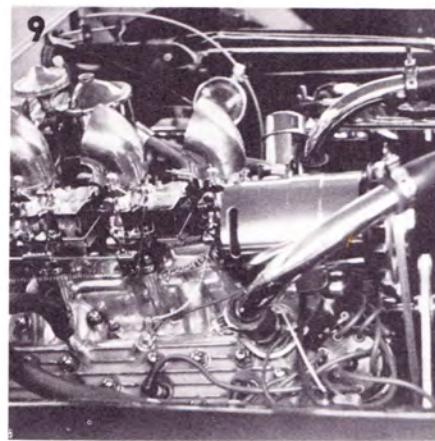
1. Dick Worden, Dick Bierdneau and Harry Reynolds.
2. Doyle dunking a blonde.
3. This grunion also ran.
4. Most of the gang.
5. Doyle dunking a brunette.
6. Dick Bierdneau at the party.
7. Doyle with tomatoes.



PLEASE SEND ANY PICTURES OR ARTICLES FOR THE "CHECKPOINT" TO: Dr. R. L. Comen, 1238 7th Street, Santa Monica, California. Let's back this Paper and DICK COMEN.



**RALLYE!**



14

3



4



7



10



11



15



1. Allah!
2. Bill Doyle and Navigator Bob Culleton.
3. Howard Frank - The Master.
4. Contestants signing up with Gloria Worden.
5. Staff meeting.
6. What are you looking for?
7. Herb and Erica Schwarz trophy dreaming.
8. Lyle Nutter checking his watch.
9. The Cop's engine.
10. Harry Reynolds, Audrey Doyle, Jo Ann Reynolds, Gloria Worden, Liz and Dick Bierdneau.
11. The family car.
12. Ed Warren's Healy - NOT STOCK.
13. Fernando Magellen.
14. That last turn was tight.
15. Ed Warren checking out Dick Bierdneau.

### **Championship Points - Sept. 1, '55**

1	Ed Lynch	320 points
2	Ed Vogler	241 points
3	Ed Warren	238 points
4	Dick Comen	235 points
5	Gene Connell	233 points
6	Harry Reynolds	228 points
7	Bill Doyle	225 points
Tie	Bob Piercy	225 points
8	Dick Bierdneau	222 points
9	Ed Darley	215 points
10	Jim Hines	204 points
11	Herb Schwarz	196 points
12	Burton Harrison	194 points
13	Dick Worden	181 points
14	Mel White	179 points
15	Visscher Boyd	174 points
16	Walt Baresal	170 points
17	Reno Lawrence	147 points
18	Buzz DeBardas	142 points
19	Bob Crooks	141 points
20	Dave Watters	131 points
21	Howard Frank	128 points
22	Bill Harner	117 points
23	Marsh Whited	102 points
24	Fred Koch	50 points
25	Peter Boyd	6 points

If there are any corrections to the above, see D. Worden

### **2-DAY RALLYE**

OCTOBER 8TH and 9TH

\$15.70 per couple

SEND CHECK TO:

DR. R. L. COMEN

1238 - 7 Street

Santa Monica

## P O R T R A I T - - -

edited by PRISSY COMEN

autobiography by BUZZ DeBARDAS

June 23rd, 1920 was my day. I was born then, and although it was never declared any national holiday, I must consider it the most important day in my life.

I spent a rather dull twenty-one years, doing all the usual things — attending school, dates, building my own car at twelve, a one lung gas motor, and a two by four frame. My greatest success with this little bomb was racing it down the street with the motor blasting away and a little boy running behind and pushing. It seemed that I was never able to hook up the motor with the rear wheels. There was more school and more dates, and a little dark-haired girl. There was junior high, senior high, junior college, and still the same little dark-haired girl, and so we got married, which immediately became the second big day.

Later there was a third big day when a wee little boy came along. I wished the name, "The Thomas Flyer," but Ruth felt that Thomas was enough for a little one, so Tommie was born twelve and one-half years ago.

I had a little bit of a problem with my friends and neighbors several years ago, about the same time that Tom was born. Seems that they sent me a letter, and so I became a Private in basic training, at Camp Wolters, Texas. I was doing the most important thing in the Armed Forces, learning to be an infantryman (that is what they told us). I had some lucky breaks, and ended up at Ft. Benning, Ga., and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. Paratrooper, 11th Airborne Div. Then it was all over, and I went home a captain, to Ruth and "The Thomas Flyer," I mean Tom.

With no more big money coming in for being in the Army, I had to go to work, and opened by own insurance agency. I bought an M.G., sold it, bought another, joined the Four Cylinder Club, was elected to the board and was appointed to handle publicity for Santa Monica Four Cylinder Club of America. I then sold the M.G. after getting tired of running from one Concours D'Elegance to another, and bought an XK140 Jaguar, which Ruth and I are spending all our time driving.

Between Ruth and Tom, a wonderful family and some swell friends it's been a wonderful thirty-five years.



## Rallye de Wheele Bounce

by BETTY LYNCH

I have finally come out of my comatose state, induced by the Rallye de Wheele Bounce, and I believe I can now tell you about it coherently, more or less.

After a safety check, a farce which took 42 seconds by the clock, we were waved off by Fred Azabashian (whatever his name is, with the big hat). We took the usual route through the Santa Monica mountains; up Tuna Canyon, Los Flores, Mulholland, Decker, etc., ending up 4 check points later at the Oxnard Airport.

I had taken the precaution of taking dramamine before leaving, but it didn't do one it of good. I was sick, along with 210 other navigators all the way to Oxnard. This was partly the result of 2 over-conscious state troopers who paced us up Tuna Canyon at 20 mph, so that we had to drive like demons the rest of the way to make up time, and try to keep the radiator from boiling more than once a mile.

From Oxnard we toolled on up to Ventura and took off on Highway 399 Sespe Creek Gorge). After turning right onto Highway 166, we had the choice of taking an optional dirt section for a minute bonus, to be subtracted from our total error, or continuing on to Gorman. We, brave enthusiasts that we are in our closed car, took the dirt section, which was only 11 miles or so long. After driving up a lonely road to the mountain top, we found a check point. Here the "facilities" were unique but plentiful: pine trees. The boys were sent off to the right, the girls to the left, and be careful where you step!

The dirt section was not timed, fortunately, and I believe most people made it without difficulty.

After leaving the dirt section we expected a check point, but there wasn't any, much to everyone's consternation. We had been told there would be one at the end of the dirt section, and there was — 25 miles further, at Gorman! We were stopped in Frasier Mtn. Park by a Porsche. It seems that a Austin Healy had spun out over the bank, and would we go back and pick up the unhurt occupants, only 10 miles back. We drove back 20 miles to the end of the dirt. No Austin Healey. So we went on to Gorman, cursing out the son of a gun who had played this sneaky trick on us. But after arriving in Gorman, we were told that an A.H. had spun out but on the wrong road. For all I know, they are sitting there still.

Do you want to see someone turn purple? Ask Chris Hines or Reno Lawrence where Spunky Canyon is. The instructions were not correct, most people say, but I was so sleepy I didn't realize this, and so with the aid of a map, we found it. (Spunky Canyon reminded us of Herb Schwartz's rallye, only here it was unintentional.)

After Spunky Canyon there was a long, straight stretch into Palmdale. Most drivers took advantage of this to chew out their navigators. I don't remember how we arrived at Hody's Lankershim, (Ed just told me we came home via Angeles Crest Highway).

S.M.F.C.C.A. did well, the Wordens 7th, the Warrens 4th, and the Lynchs first. Out of 211 entrants, 3 did not start, 35 did not finish, and thousands more missed check points.

The Pacific Sports Car Club had many excellent ideas and challenging situations. I'm sure everyone learned something from Rallye de Wheele Bounce, even if it was never to go on another rallye again!



## SANTA BARBARA

1. Phil Hill's Ferrari after the tangle.
2. Ernie McAfee at the Winner's Circle on Sunday.
3. A beautiful job of lengthening the frame of an MG.
4. Ken Miles MG Special.
5. Walt Stone rounding turn 3.
6. Lee Flynn inspecting his badly damaged crankshaft.
7. Ken Miles after Von Neumann.
8. Hal Butler after the race — minus Bow Tie.
9. Frank Pauli with the new AC Coupe.
10. Roger Kennedy the Club's new artist.



## For Women Only . . .

by RUTH NUTTER

I would like to have this a column for us gals only. So to do this I'm going to need suggestions from all you gals in the club. So please call EX 9-8020.

I talked with *Ed Vogler* the other day, and he told me his wife *Evie* met with an accident while gardening. It seems she missed her footing and in regaining her balance her face hit a cactus which punctured an eye. She spent several painful days in the hospital, and worst of all, she couldn't check last Rallye.

*Chris Hines* and *Betty Lynch* are so glad *Comens* are having a baby, so we'll hear of something other than T.C.

*Ray Moyer* made a beautiful clipboard for the *Lawrences*. Her's says "Faith" and his says Reno. *Lawrences* are as proud of their Sunbeam as *Dick* is of his T.C.

The *Lynchs* can't lose a rallye. Their watch is named "Howard."

Would like to see more day rallies and less night rallies just to see our beautiful countryside. Night rallies are getting monotonous, so how about it?

### JOKE!

"The Bishop was waiting to enter heaven. He was kept at the gate for many days and people passed him going in. He grew impatient. A blonde, buxom wench came up to the gate and was at once admitted. The bishop was furious and called out to the angel who stood beyond the railings.

"I say this is too much. I have waited long enough. I am a churchman distinguished on earth." He drew himself as if to quell an awed congregation and said, "Why should that female enter heaven before I do?"

The angel only laughed at him. "Ah, my lord bishop, if you only knew the truth you would not ask that question. That young lady who just came in has been driving a sports car most of her life, and she's put the fear of God into more people than you ever did!"

## News Quips

Did you notice the picture of *Roger Kennedy* on the Santa Barbara race page? *Roger* is the artist who is doing the lay-out and cartoons on our *Check-point*. He has been driving a MGTD but has just sold it to buy a new sports car, make unknown. We hope to see *Roger* and his wife *Lois* at our Club activities.

\* \* \*

All who attended the *Comen's* beach party had a terrific time and agree that this type of Club activity should happen more often.

\* \* \*

Quite a few Club members were seen at the recent Santa Barbara road race. Four drivers put on a thrilling show both days, *Von Neumann* and *Ken Miles* in the under 1500cc modified with *Phil Hill* and *Ernie McAfee* in the over 1500cc modified. *Ken Miles* and *Ernie McAfee* being the eventual winners on Sunday.

\* \* \*

The *Checkpoint* was held up for a couple of days waiting for *Bobbie White* to have her baby -- we couldn't wait any longer so you will all read about it next month.



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